



January 2015

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Public Comment

**The public comment period runs
January 1, 2015 to February 9, 2015**

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Public Comment
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Wood Burn Rules

[www.deq.utah.gov/Topics/Air/
woodburning/rules.htm](http://www.deq.utah.gov/Topics/Air/woodburning/rules.htm)

Wood Burn Program Web Page

[www.deq.utah.gov/Topics/Air/
woodburning/index.htm](http://www.deq.utah.gov/Topics/Air/woodburning/index.htm)

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Division of Air Quality

Fact Sheet

Proposed Seasonal Wood Burn Ban

The proposed seasonal wood burn ban amendment would prohibit solid fuel burning for all solid fuel burning devices such as fireplaces and wood/coal stoves from November 1st to March 15th, beginning in November of 2015. Air quality modeling shows that a seasonal burn ban is an important component of the emission control strategies needed to bring nonattainment areas closer to compliance with the federal health-based standard for particulate matter.

Emissions from wood-burning stoves and fireplaces contribute to direct fine particulate pollution and produce the reactive gases (such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NOx)) that form the particulate pollution that builds up during temperature inversions.

Inversions form when a dense layer of cold air is trapped under a layer of warm air. The warm air acts like a lid, trapping pollutants in the cold air near the valley floor. The mountains act like a bowl, keeping the cold air and the pollutants in it in the valleys.

The Air Quality Board is exploring the option of a seasonal burn ban to improve wintertime air quality along the Wasatch Front and Cache Valley. These areas routinely violate the federal health-based standard for particulate matter, and solid fuel burning has been found to be a significant contributor to fine particulate pollution.



Public Comment

The Air Quality Board (AQB) is seeking public comment on a proposal to institute a seasonal ban on solid fuel burning in fireplaces and wood/coal stoves. The public comment period runs from January 1, 2015, to February 9, 2015. Public hearings will be held in each of the affected counties.

During the public comment period, the AQB is asking residents to consider and comment on the following:

- A single ban period applicable to all areas
- A different ban period for each area if it results in the same air quality impact
- The possible exclusion of counties in which data may not support a ban

Frequently Asked Questions

How will this proposal affect sole-source households?

Sole-source households that are currently registered with the Division of Air Quality (DAQ) are exempt. DAQ is reopening the sole-source registry from February 2, 2015, to June 1, 2015 to allow additional households to register their solid burning devices, including fireplaces, wood-burning stoves, pellet stoves, and coal-burning stoves, if these devices serve as their sole source of heat.

Could households still use EPA-certified stoves under the proposed rule?

NO. Although EPA-certified wood-stoves emit one-third to one-fourth less fine particulate matter than non-EPA certified stoves, certified stoves emit approximately 160 times more fine particulate matter than heating systems that use natural gas. EPA-certified stoves emit volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NOx), the reactive gases that are responsible for 70 percent of the particulate pollution during inversions. In addition, certified stoves emit hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), such as benzene, formaldehyde, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which may cause cancer.

What areas of the state are covered under the proposed burn ban?

The ban covers areas of the state that are in nonattainment for the 24-hour standard for fine particulates. Proposed areas are listed below. The seasonal burn ban would not affect areas located outside these boundaries.

What options do low-income households have if they are not able to afford to heat their homes with gas or electricity alone?

Low-income households can utilize the Utah Home Energy Assistance Training (HEAT) program to help with home energy costs during the winter months.

Would homes or ski resorts above the inversion layer be subject to the ban?

Sources above 7,000 feet would be exempt from the ban.

Would this ban apply to commercial, industrial, and institutional food preparation (such as pizza ovens or meat smokers) that use solid fuels?

These sources would be exempt.

Would wood heat still be a backup option in the event of a power outage?

The Director may use enforcement discretion during emergency conditions.

Areas Proposed for a Seasonal Burn Ban

Box Elder County

From the Wasatch Mountain range west to the Promontory Mountain range and south of Portage, with an exemption for sources above 7,000 feet

Cache County

Cache Valley

Salt Lake and Davis Counties

All areas, with an exemption for sources above 7,000 feet

Tooele County

From the northernmost part of the Oquirrh Mountain range to the northern most part of the Stansbury Mountain range and north of Route 199, with an exemption for sources above 7,000 ft.

Weber and Utah Counties

West of the Wasatch mountain range, with an exemption for sources above 7,000 feet

